

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6377**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1311

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 23, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 23, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Hearing Aids Program.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Goodin

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill establishes the Hearing Aid Fund to be administered by the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to pay for hearing aids for eligible children. It requires the Office of the Secretary of FSSA to establish a Hearing Aid Refurbishing Program.

**Effective Date:** (Amended) July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The bill establishes the Hearing Aid Assistance Program. The program is established to provide funding to purchase hearing aids for hearing-impaired children. The fiscal impact would vary from year to year depending on the number of hearing aids that are needed and are otherwise not covered by existing insurance or public programs. The bill specifies that payment for hearing aids under the program may only be made if the eligible child cannot be reimbursed for the hearing aid under private insurance, a health maintenance organization contract, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, or any other federal assistance program. The bill does not address circumstances such as underinsurance or payment for necessary professional services. The bill does not include the State Children with Special Health Care Needs program or private philanthropic organizations that may provide these devices in the list of exclusions.

There are about 2,350 hearing-impaired children attending public schools and receiving special education services. The number of children that would require hearing aids to be provided by the program that are not currently eligible for assistance under an existing program is not known.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Family and Social Services Administration.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Kathy Norris, 317-234-1360.